

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 /103 W

----- 024135

R 060955Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3885

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4794

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, ASEAN, SN, KS, KN

SUBJ: KOREA IN 30TH UNGA

SUMMARY: UNLESS THERE IS SOME SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENT ON KOREAN ISSUE, GOS WILL MAINTAIN IN PLENARY THE VOTING POSITION IT ADOPTED IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. GOS BELIEVES IT MUST BALANCE ITS VOTING TO AVOID OFFENDING NORTH KOREANS. GOS HINTED IT MIGHT CONSIDER ABSTAINING ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND VOTING AGAINST HOSTILE RESOLUTION IF U.S. SO DESIRED. PLEASE ADVISE. END SUMMARY.

1. DEPUTY SECRETARY MFA TAN BOON SENG TOLD DCM NOVEMBER 6 THAT GOS DID NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY POSSIBILITY OF DEVELOPING COMPROMISE RESOLUTION ON KOREAN QUESTION WHICH WOULD ATTRACT NORTH KOREAN ACCEPTANCE. SOMEWHAT RUEFULLY, HE OBSERVED THAT "WIDE MARGIN" IN FAVOR OF ALGERIAN RESOLUTION REPRESENTED "MORAL VICTORY" FOR NORTH KOREA AND CONSEQUENTLY THERE WAS NO INCENTIVE FOR NORTH KOREANS TO COMPROMISE. DCM POINTED OUT THAT "WIDE MARGIN" IN FAVOR OF ALGERIAN RESOLUTION WAS IN LARGE PART  
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DUE TO DECISION BY MANY GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING GOS TO ABSTAIN.

IF GOS WAS CONCERNED THAT NORTH KOREA HAD WON A "MORAL VICTORY", IT SHOULD VOTE AGAINST THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION IN THE PLENARY SESSION.

2. TAN SAID THE NORTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL IN SINGAPORE HAD ALREADY BEEN IN TO "PROTEST" SINGAPORE'S SUPPORT FOR THE FRENCH/CANADIAN RESOLUTION IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HE SAID DPRK HAD BEEN ANGERED BY GOS DECISION A FEW MONTHS AGO TO UPGRADE THE ROK CONSULATE GENERAL TO AN EMBASSY AND HAD CANCELLED THE VISIT OF THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE DPRK. RECENTLY, THE NORTH KOREANS HAD REQUESTED THAT THEIR CONSULATE GENERAL IN SINGAPORE BE RAISED TO AN EMBASSY AND THE GOS HAD DECIDED TO DO SO. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION, GOS FELT IT WOULD HAVE TO MAINTAIN AN "EVEN-HANDED" APPROACH TO THE KOREAN ISSUE. HE SAID GOS HAD DEBATED WHETHER IT SHOULD VOTE FOR FRENCH/CANADIAN RESOLUTION AND ABSTAIN ON THE ALGERIAN ONE, OR ABSTAIN ON THE FORMER AND VOTE AGAINST THE LATTER. HE HINTED THAT IF THE U.S. WOULD PREFER THE LATTER OPTION, GOS WOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER IT.

3. DCM POINTED OUT THAT THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION COULD HARDLY BE DESCRIBED AS AN "EVEN-HANDED" APPROACH TO THE KOREAN ISSUE SINCE IT TOTALLY EXCLUDED THE SOUTH KOREANS FROM DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF KOREA. FURTHER, IF THE GOS AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS PURSUED AN "EVEN-HANDED" APPROACH IN VOTING ON A TOTALLY UNREASONABLE RESOLUTION IT WAS BOUND TO RESULT IN SLIPPAGE IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PROMOTING SUCH AN INTRANSIGENT POSITION. TAN ADMITTED THERE WAS SOME TRUTH TO THIS, BUT OBVIOUSLY FELT HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT SUPPORT THE U.S. 100 PCT ON THIS MATTER WITHOUT SERIOUSLY OFFENDING THE NORTH KOREANS.

4. DCM REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT THE GOS WOULD CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ITS SUPPORT FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND URGED THAT THE GOS RECONSIDER ITS POSITION ON THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION AND VOTE AGAINST IT. DCM POINTED OUT THAT IN HIS LAST VISIT TO THE U.S. PRIME MINISTER LEE HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE U.S. MAINTAIN ITS COMMITMENT TO KOREA. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS TO UNDERSTAND WHY THE U.S. SHOULD MAINTAIN THIS COMMITMENT WHEN OUR ANXIOUS FRIENDS IN ASIA ABSTAINED ON RESOLUTIONS WHICH COULD ONLY PLAY INTO NORTH KOREAN

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HANDS AND DESTABILIZE THE SITUATION. TAN REPLIED THAT AS MATTERS NOW STOOD, THE GOS WOULD VOTE FOR THE FRENCH/CANADIAN RESOLUTION IN PLENARY, BUT WOULD STILL ABSTAIN ON THE ALGERIAN RESOLUTION.

5. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES GOS WILL MAINTAIN IN PLENARY THE POSITION IT ADOPTED IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, IF A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION EMERGES OR SOME NEW SITUATION DEVELOPS, GOS WILL, OF COURSE, RECONSIDER ITS POSITION. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER

WE WOULD PREFER TO HAVE GOS ABSTAIN ON FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND  
VOTE AGAINST HOSTILE RESOLUTION. IF SO, THERE MIGHT BE SOME CHANCE  
OF PERSUADING GOS TO DO THIS. HOLDRIDGE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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